

Claims

1. Use of a protein to modulate the viscosity of a composition comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s), wherein said protein is at least one of wheat protein, egg protein, collagen, whey protein, casein, soy protein, pea protein, muscle protein, gluten, fibrillar protein, silk proteins, and hydrolysates thereof.
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2. The use according to claim 1, wherein said viscous soluble fiber is at least one of gum, pectin, beta-glucan, mucilage, and carrageenan.
- 10 3. The use according to claim 2, wherein said gum is at least one of konjac gum, locust bean gum, tara bean gum, gum tragacanth, karaya gum, xanthan gum, arabic gum, guar gum, and gellan gum.
4. A composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s).
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5. A non-viscous composition for oral or enteral administration comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s).
6. The composition of claim 4 or 5 having a viscosity of less than about 500 mPa.s at room
20 temperature.
7. The composition of any one of claims 4 to 6 wherein the ratio of said fiber : said protein is from about 0.01:1 to about 20:1.
- 25 8. The composition of any one of claims 4 to 7 comprising about 1% to about 10% by weight of viscous soluble fibers, based on the total weight of the composition.
9. The composition of any one of claims 4 to 8 wherein said protein is at least one of wheat protein, egg protein, collagen, whey protein, casein, soy protein, pea protein, muscle protein, gluten,
30 fibrillar protein, silk protein, and hydrolysates thereof.
10. The composition of any one of claims 4 to 9 wherein said fiber is at least one of gum, mucilage, carrageenan, pectin, and beta-glucan.

11. The composition of claim 10 wherein said gum is at least one of konjac gum, locust bean gum, tara bean gum, gum tragacanth, karaya gum, xanthan gum, arabic gum, guar gum, and gellan gum.

5 12. A composition comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s) wherein the viscous soluble fiber is at least one of gum, mucilage, carrageenan, pectin, and beta-glucan, and the viscosity-lowering protein is at least one of whey protein, soy protein, and hydrolysates thereof.

10 13. A composition comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s) wherein the viscosity-lowering protein is at least one of wheat protein, egg protein, collagen, muscle protein, gluten, fibrillar protein, silk protein, and hydrolysates thereof.

15 14. A composition comprising one or more viscous soluble fiber(s) and one or more viscosity-lowering protein(s) wherein the viscosity-lowering protein is at least one of whey protein, soy protein, pea protein, and hydrolysates thereof, with the proviso that the composition does not comprise inulin.

15. The composition of any one of claims 4 to 14 wherein the composition is in form of a drink.

20 16. Use of a composition of any one of claims 4 to 15 for the manufacture of a medicament or nutritional composition for the prevention or treatment of metabolic syndrome and/or diabetes and/or for lowering blood cholesterol level.

25 17. A method of treating and/or preventing metabolic syndrome and/or diabetes, and/or of lowering blood cholesterol level in a mammal in need of such a treatment comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of a composition of any one of claims 4 to 15.

18. A method for providing viscous soluble fibers to a mammal in need of such fibers comprising administering to said mammal a composition of any one of claims 4 to 15.